

## PRE

**PREPOSTEROUSLY**. *adv.* [from *preposterous*.] In a wrong situation; absurdly.

Those things do best please me,  
That befall *preposterously*. *Shakep. Midl. Night's Dream.*  
Upon this supposition, one animal would have its lungs,  
where another hath its liver, and all the other members *pre-*  
*posterously* placed; there could not be a like configuration of  
parts in any two individuals. *Bentley's Sermons.*  
**PREPOSTEROUNESS**. *n. f.* [from *preposterous*.] Absurdity;  
wrong order or method.

**PREPOTENCY**. *n. f.* [*præpotentia*, Lat.] Superior power;  
predominance.

If there were a determinate *prepotency* in the right, and  
such as ariseth from a constant root in nature, we might ex-  
pect the same in other animals. *Brown.*

**PREPUCE**. *n. f.* [*prepuce*, Fr. *præputium*, Lat.] That which  
covers the glans; foreskin.

The *prepuce* was much inflamed and swelled. *Wise man.*

**TO PRE-REQUIRE**. *v. a.* [*præ* and *require*.] To demand pre-  
viously.

Some primary literal signification is *prærequired* to that other  
of figurative. *Hammond.*

**PREREQUISITE**. *adj.* [*præ* and *requisite*.] Something previously  
necessary.

The conformation of parts is necessary, not only unto the  
*prerequisite* and previous conditions of birth, but also unto the  
parturition. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

Before the existence of compounded body, there must be a  
pre-existence of active principles, necessarily *prerequisite* to  
the mixing these particles of bodies. *Hale.*

**PREROGATIVE**. *n. f.* [*prærogative*, Fr. *prærogativa*, low Lat.]  
An exclusive or peculiar privilege.

My daughters and the fair Parthenia might far better put  
in their claim for that *prerogative*. *Sidney.*

Our *prerogative*  
Calls not your counsels, but our natural goodness  
Imparts this. *Shakep.*

How could communities,  
The primogeniture, and due of birth,  
*Prerogative* of age, sceptres, and crowns,  
But by degree, stand in authentick place? *Shakep.*

The great Caliph hath an old *prerogative* in the choice and  
confirmation of the kings of Assyria. *Kneller.*

They are the best laws, by which the king hath the justest  
*prerogative*, and the people the best liberty. *Bacon.*

Had any of these second causes deposed God of his *pre-*  
*rogative*, or had God himself constrained the mind and will  
of man to impious acts by any celestial enforcements? *Raleigh.*

They obtained another royal *prerogative* and power, to  
make war and peace at their pleasure. *Davies.*

The house of commons to these their *prerogatives* over the  
lords, sent an order to the lieutenant of the tower, that he  
should cause him to be executed that very day. *Clarendon.*

For freedom still maintain'd alive,  
Freedom an English subjects' sole *prerogative*,  
Accept our pious praise. *Dryden.*

All with the dire *prerogative* to kill,  
E'en they would have the pow'r, who want the will. *Dryden.*

It seems to be the *prerogative* of human understandings,  
when it has distinguished any ideas, so as to perceive them to  
be different, to consider in what circumstances they are ca-  
pable to be compared. *Locke.*

I will not consider only the *prerogatives* of man above other  
animals, but the endowments which nature hath conferred on  
his body in common with them. *Ray on the Creation.*

**PREROGATIVE**. *adj.* [from *prerogative*.] Having an exclu-  
sive privilege; having prerogative.

'Tis the plague of great ones,  
*Prerogative*'d are they less than the base;  
'Tis destiny unshunnable. *Shakep.*

**PRES.** *pres*, *prest*, seem to be derived from the Saxon, *preost*, a  
priest; it being usual in after times to drop the letter *s* in like  
cases. *Gibson's Camden.*

**PRESAGE**. *n. f.* [*presage*, Fr. *præsagium*, Lat.] Prognostick;  
presention of futurity.

Joy and shout *presage* of victory. *Milton.*

Dreams have generally been considered by authors only as  
revelations of what has already happened, or as *presages* of  
what is to happen. *Addison.*

**TO PRESAGE**. *v. a.* [*presager*, Fr. *præsagio*, Latin.]

1. To forebode; to foreknow; to foretell; to prophesy.

Henry's late *presaging* prophecy  
Did glad my heart with hope. *Shakep. Henry VI.*

What pow'r of mind  
Foreseeing, or *presaging* from the depth  
Of knowledge past or present, could have fear'd  
How such united force of gods, how such  
As flood like this, could ever know repulse. *Milton.*

This contagion might have been *presaged* upon considera-  
tion of its precursors. *Harvey on Consumptions.*

With'd freedom, I *presage* you soon will find,  
If heav'n be just, and if to virtue kind. *Dryden.*

## PRE

2. Sometimes with *of* before the thing foretold.

That by certain signs we may *presage*  
Of heats and rains, and wind's impetuous rage,  
The foreign of the heav'n's has set on high  
The moon to mark the changes of the sky. *Dryden.*

2. To foretoken; to foreknow.

If I may trust the flattering ruth of sleep,  
My dreams *presage* some joyful news at hand. *Shakep.*

Dreams advise some great good *presaging*.  
That cloud, that hangs upon thy brow, *presages*  
A greater storm than all the Turkish power  
Can throw upon us. *Denham's Sephy.*

When others fell, this standing did *presage*  
The crown thou'd triumph over pop'lar rage. *Waller.*

**PRESAGEMENT**. *n. f.* [from *presage*.]

1. Forebodement; presention.

I have spent much enquiry, whether he had any ominous  
*presagement* before his end. *Wotton.*

2. Foretoken.

The falling of salt is an authentick *presagement* of ill luck,  
from whence notwithstanding nothing can be naturally  
feared. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

**PRESBYTER**. *n. f.* [*presbyter*, Lat. *πρεσβύτερος*.]

1. A priest.

*Presbyters* absent through infirmity from their churches,  
might be said to preach by those deputies who in their stead  
did but read homilies. *Hooker, b. v. f. 20.*

2. A presbyterian.

And *presbyters* have their jackpuddings too. *Butler.*

**PRESBYTERIAN**. *adj.* [*πρεσβυτερος*.] Consisting of elders;  
a term for a modern form of ecclesiastical government.

Chiefly was urged the abolition of episcopal, and the estab-  
lishing of *presbyterian* government. *King Charles.*

**PRESBYTERIAN**. *n. f.* [from *presbyter*.] An abettor of *pres-*  
*bytery* or calvinistical discipline.

One of the more rigid *presbyterians*. *Swift.*

**PRESBYTERY**. *n. f.* [from *presbyter*.] Body of elders, whether  
priests or laymen.

Those which stood for the *presbytery*, thought their cause  
had more sympathy with the discipline of Scotland than the  
hierarchy of England. *Bacon.*

Flea-bitten synod, an assembly brew'd  
Of clerks and elders ana, like the rude  
Chaos of *presbytry*, where laymen guide  
With the tame woolpack clergy by their side. *Cleveland.*

**PRESCIENCE**. *n. f.* [*prescience*, Fr. *præscient*.] Foreknow-  
ledge; knowledge of future things.

They tax our policy, and call it cowardice,  
Foretell our *prescience*, and esteem no act  
But that of hand. *Shakep. Treilus and Cressida.*

*Prescience* or foreknowledge, considered in order and nature,  
if we may speak of God after the manner of men, goeth be-  
fore providence; for God foreknew all things before he had  
created them, or before they had being to be cared for; and  
*prescience* is no other than an infallible foreknowledge. *Rail.*

If certain *prescience* of uncertain events imply a contra-  
diction, it seems it may be struck out of the omniscience of  
God, and leave no blemish behind. *Mora.*

Of things of the most accidental and mutable nature, God's  
*prescience* is certain.

Freedom was first bestow'd on human race,  
And *prescience* only held the second place. *Dryden.*

**PRESCIENT**. *adj.* [*præscient*, Lat.] Foreknowing; pro-  
phetic.

Henry, upon the deliberation concerning the marriage of  
his eldest daughter into Scotland, had shewed himself sensible  
and almost *prescient* of this event. *Bacon.*

Who taught the nations of the field and wood?  
*Prescient*, the tides or tempests to withstand. *Pope.*

**PRESCIOUS**. *adj.* [*præscius*, Lat.] Having foreknowledge.

Thrice happy thou, dear partner of my bed,  
Whole holy soul the stroke of fortune fled;  
*Prescious* of ills, and leaving me behind,  
To drink the dregs of life. *Dryden's Entis.*

**TO PRESCIND**. *v. a.* [*præscindo*, Lat.] To cut off; to ab-  
stract.

A bare act of obliquity does not only *prescind* from, but  
positively deny such a special dependence. *Norris.*

**PRESCINDENT**. *adj.* [*præscindens*, Lat.] Abstracting.

We may, for one single act, abstract from a reward, which  
nobody, who knows the *prescindent* faculties of the soul, can  
deny. *Cheyne's Philosophical Principles.*

**TO PRESCRIBE**. *v. a.* [*prescribo*, Lat.]

1. To set down authoritatively; to order; to direct.

Doth the strength of some negative arguments prove this  
kind of negative argument strong, by force whereof all things  
are denied, which scripture affirmeth not, or all things, which  
scripture *prescribeth* not, condemned. *Hooker.*

To the blanc moon her office they *prescrib'd*.  
There's joy, when to wild will you laws *prescribe*.  
When you bid fortune carry back her bribe. *Dryden.*

When parents loves are order'd by a son,  
Let streams *prescribe* their fountains where to run. *Dryden.*

## PRE

2. To direct medically.

The end of satire is the amendment of vices by correction;  
and he who writes honestly is no more an enemy to the of-  
fender, than the physician to the patient, when he *prescribes*  
harsh remedies. *Dryden.*

The extremest ways they first ordain,  
*Prescribing* such intolerable pain,  
As none but Cæsar could sustain. *Dryden.*

By a short account of the pressing obligations which lie on  
the magistrate, I shall not so much *prescribe* directions for the  
future, as praise what is past. *Atterbury.*

Should any man argue, that a physician understands his  
own art best; and therefore, although he should *prescribe* poison  
to all his patients, he cannot be justly punished, but is an-  
swerable only to God. *Swift.*

**TO PRESCRIBE**. *v. n.*

1. To influence by long custom.

A reserve of puerility we have not shaken off from school,  
where being seasoned with minor sentences, they *prescribe*  
upon our riper years, and never are worn out but with our  
memories. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

2. To influence arbitrarily.

The assuming an authority of dictating to others, and a  
forwardness to *prescribe* to their opinions; is a constant con-  
comitant of this bias of our judgments. *Locke.*

3. [*Prescribo*, Fr.] To form a custom which has the force of law.

That obligation upon the lands did not *prescribe* or come  
into disuse, but by fifty consecutive years of exemption. *Arb.*

4. To give medical directions and forms of medicine.

Modern 'pothecaries, taught the art  
By doctor's bills to play the doctor's part,  
Bold in the practice of mistaken rules,  
*Prescribe*, apply, and call their matters fools. *Pope.*

**PRESCRIPT**. *adj.* [*prescriptus*, Lat.] Directed; accurately  
laid down in a precept.

Those very laws so added, they themselves do not judge  
unlawful; as they plainly confess both in matter of *prescript*  
attire, and of rites appertaining to burial. *Hooker.*

**PRESCRIPT**. *n. f.* [*prescriptum*, Lat.] Direction; precept;  
model prescribed.

By his *prescript*, a sanctuary is fram'd  
Of cedar, overlaid with gold. *Milton.*

**PRESCRIPTION**. *n. f.* [*prescription*, Fr. *præscriptio*, Lat. from  
*prescribo*, Lat.]

1. Rules produced and authorized by long custom; custom con-  
tinued till it has the force of law.

You tell a pedigree  
Of threefold and two years, a silly time  
To make *prescription* for a kingdom's worth. *Shakep.*

Use such as have prevailed before in things you have em-  
ployed them; for that breeds confidence, and they will strive  
to maintain their *prescription*. *Bacon's Essays.*

It will be found a work of no small difficulty, to dispossess  
a vice from that heart, where long possession begins to plead  
*prescription*. *South's Sermons.*

Our poet bade us hope this grace to find,  
To whom by long *prescription* you are kind. *Dryden.*

The Lucrèce plead *prescription*, for hunting in one of the  
duke's forests, that lies upon their frontiers. *Addison.*

2. Medical receipt.

My father left me some *prescriptions*  
Of rare and prov'd effects; such as his reading  
And manifest experience had collected  
For general sovereignty. *Shakep.*

Approving of my obstinacy against all common *prescrip-*  
*tions*, he asked me, whether I had never heard the Indian  
way of curing the gout by moxa. *Temple.*

**PRESEANCE**. *n. f.* [*preseance*, Fr.] Priority of place in sitting.

The ghosts, though rude in their other fashions, may, for  
their discreet judgment in precedence and *preseance*, read a  
lesson to our civilst gentry. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*

**PRESENCE**. *n. f.* [*presence*, Fr. *præsentia*, Lat.]

1. State of being present; contrary to absence.

To-night we hold a solemn supper,  
And I'll requell your *presence*. *Shakep.*

The *presence* of a king engenders love  
Amongst his subjects and his loyal friends,  
As it difanimates his enemies. *Shakep. Henry VI.*

2. Approach face to face to a great personage.

The shepherd Dorus answered with such a trembling voice  
and abashed countenance, and oftentimes so far from the  
matter, that it was some sport to the young ladies, thinking  
it want of education, which made him to discomtented with  
unwonted *presence*. *Sidney, b. i.*

Men that very *presence* fear,  
Which once they knew authority did bear!  
3. State of being in the view of a superior. *Daniel.*

Thou know'st the law of arms is such,  
That, who draws a sword in th' *presence* 't's death. *Sha.*

I know not by what power I am made bold,  
In such a *presence* here, to plead my thoughts. *Shakep.*

Wisdom thy sister, and with her did't play  
In *presence* of th' Almighty. *Milton.*

Perhaps I have not so well consulted the repute of my in-  
tellectuals, in bringing their imperfections into such discern-  
ing *presences*. *Glanvill's Scep.*

Since clinging cares and trains of inbred fears,  
Not aw'd by arms, but in the *presence* bold,  
Without respect to purple or to gold. *Dryden.*

4. A number assembled before a great person.

Look I to pale.  
—Ay; and no man in the *presence*,  
But his red colour hath forsook his cheeks. *Shakep.*

Odmar, of all this *presence* does contain,  
Give her your wreath whom you esteem most fair. *Dryden.*

5. Port; air; mien; demeanour.

Virtue is best in a body that is comely, and that hath rather  
dignity of *presence*, than beauty of aspect. *Bacon.*

A graceful *presence* bespeaks acceptance, gives a force to  
language, and helps to convince by look and posture. *Collier.*

How great his *presence*, how erect his look,  
How ev'ry grace, how all his virtuous mother  
Shines in his face, and charms me from his eyes. *Smith.*

6. Room in which a prince shows himself to his court.

By them they pass, all gazing on them round,  
And to the *presence* mount, whole glorious view  
Their frail amazed senses did confound. *Fairy Queen.*

An't please your grace, the two great cardinals  
Wait in the *presence*. *Shakep. Henry VIII.*

The lady Anne of Bretagne, passing through the *presence*  
in the court of France, and espying Chartier, a famous poet,  
leaning upon his elbow fast asleep, openly kissing him, said,  
we must honour with our kiss, the mouth from whence so  
many sweet verses have proceeded. *Peacham.*

7. Readiness at need; quickness at expedients.

A good bodily strength is a felicity of nature, but nothing  
comparable to a large understanding and ready *presence* of  
mind. *L'Estrange.*

Errors, not to be recall'd, do find  
Their best redress from *presence* of the mind,  
Courage our greatest failings does supply. *Waller.*

8. The perion of a superior.

To her the sov'reign *presence* thus reply'd. *Milton.*

**PRESENCE-CHAMBER**. *n. f.* [*presence* and *chamber* or *room*.]

**PRESENCE-ROOM**. } The room in which a great person  
receives company.

If these nerves, which are the conduits to convey them  
from without to their audience in the brain, the mind's *pre-*  
*sence-room*, are so disordered, as not to perform their func-  
tions, they have no power to be admitted by. *Locke.*

Kneller, with silence and surprise,  
We see Britannia's monarch rise,  
And aw'd by thy delusive hand,  
As in the *presence-chamber* stand. *Addison.*

**PRESENION**. *n. f.* [*præsentia*, Lat.] Perception beforehand.

The hedgehog's *presention* of winds is exact. *Brown.*

**PRESENT**. *adj.* [*present*, Fr. *præsens*, Lat.]

1. Not absent; being face to face; being at hand.

But neither of these are any impediment, because the re-  
gent thereof is of an infinite immensity more than commen-  
surate to the extent of the world, and such as is most inti-  
mately *present* with all the beings of the world. *Hale.*

Be not often *present* at feasts, not at all in dissolute com-  
pany; pleasing objects steal away the heart. *Taylor.*

Much I have heard  
Incredible to me, in this displeas'd,  
That I was never *present* on the place  
Of those encounters. *Milton's Agonistes.*

2. Not past; not future.

Thou future things can't represent  
As *present*. *Milton.*

The moments past, if thou art wife, retrieve  
With pleasant mem'ry of the bliss they gave;  
The *present* hours in pleasant mirth employ,  
And bribe the future with the hopes of joy. *Prior.*

The *present* age hath not been less inquisitive than the  
former ages were. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

3. Ready at hand; quick in emergencies.

If a man write little, he had need have a great memory;  
if he confer little, he had need have a *present* wit; and if he  
read little, he had need have much cunning. *Bacon.*

'Tis a high point of philosophy and virtue for a man to be  
so *present* to himself, as to be always provided against all  
accidents. *L'Estrange.*

4. Favourably attentive; not neglectful; propitious.

Be *present* to her now, as then,  
And let not proud and factious men  
Against your wills oppose their mights.  
The golden goddess, *present* at the pray'r,  
Well knew he meant th' animated fair,  
And gave the sign of granting his desire.  
Nor could I hope in any place but there,  
To find a god so *present* to my pray'r. *Dryden.*

5. Unforgotten; not neglectful.

The ample mind keeps the several objects all within sight,  
and *present* to the soul. *Watts.*

6. Not abstracted; not